

What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] A horseshoe comprising a core of rigid material sandwiched between a first layer of shock absorbing elastomeric material and a second layer of shock absorbing elastomeric material, at least one of said first and second layers being bonded to the core at a face where the core has a plurality of indentations or a plurality of raised humps.

[Claim 2] A horseshoe according to claim 1 wherein the indentations are dished depressions.

[Claim 3] A horseshoe according to claim 1 wherein one of said first and second layers is bonded to the core at a face where the core has a plurality of dished depressions and the other of said first and second layers is bonded to the core at a face where the core has a plurality of raised humps.

[Claim 4] A horseshoe according to claim 2 or 3 wherein the dished depressions are circular.

[Claim 5] A horseshoe according to claim 3 or 4 wherein the humps are circular.

[Claim 6] A horseshoe according to any one of the previous claims wherein the elastomeric material in the first layer is a different thickness to the elastomeric material in the second layer.

[Claim 7] A horseshoe according to any one of the previous claims wherein the elastomeric material in the first layer has a different composition to the elastomeric material in the second layer.

[Claim 8] A horseshoe according to claim 1 wherein the core of said shoe comprises:

- an upper face adapted to face the hoof of a horse,
- a lower face adapted to face the ground,
- a curved inner wall extending between the upper face and the lower face,
- a curved outer wall between the upper face and the lower face,
- said inner wall and outer wall blending at heel portions of the shoe, and
- said lower face having:

- a raised rim adjacent said inner wall,
- a raised rim adjacent said outer wall, and
- a plurality of ridges linking said rims,

such that said rims and ridges in combination form depressions therebetween which are at least substantially filled with elastomeric material.

[Claim 9] A horseshoe according to claim 8 wherein said rim adjacent the inner wall and said rim adjacent the outer wall are joined at the heels of said lower face by continuations of the rims which sweep around the heels on the lower face.

[Claim 10] A horseshoe according to claim 8 or 9 wherein said ridges are aligned substantially transverse to said rims where the ridges meet the rims.

[Claim 11] A horseshoe according to claim 10 wherein each said ridge extends from about the crest of said inner rim to about the crest of said outer rim.

[Claim 12] A horseshoe according to any one of claims 8 to 11 wherein said depressions have an approximately rectangular or trapezoidal appearance from the lower face.

[Claim 13] A horseshoe according to any one of claims 8 to 12 wherein said core has, around its toe portion, said outer rim raised to a greater extent than said inner rim.

[Claim 14] A horseshoe according to claim 13 wherein the crests of said ridges are sloped from the inner rim to the outer rim.

[Claim 15] A horseshoe according to claim 1 and including a toe clip upstanding from the toe of the shoe, wherein said core has integrally formed therewith a toe clip core portion which rises from the toe perpendicular to said layers and wherein the upper portion of said toe clip core projects further forwards from the toe than is the lower portion of the toe clip core.

[Claim 16] A horseshoe according to claim 1 said shoe having:
an upper face adapted to in use be affixed in contact with a horse's hoof,
a bottom face, forming a sole face of the shoe, said sole face being intended to in use bear on the ground,
a curved inner wall extending between the upper face and the sole face,

a curved outer wall between the upper face and the sole face,
said inner wall and outer wall blending at heel portions of the shoe, and
said sole face having:
a raised rim adjacent said inner wall, and
a raised rim adjacent said outer wall.

[Claim 17] A horseshoe according to claim 16 wherein a plurality of ridges link said rims such that said raised inner rim, said raised outer rim and said linking ridges in combination form indentations therebetween.

[Claim 18] A horseshoe according to claim 17 wherein said linking ridges are aligned substantially transverse to said rims where the ridges meet the rims.

[Claim 19] A horseshoe according to claim 18 wherein said indentations appear approximately rectangular or trapezoidal when viewed perpendicular to said sole face.

[Claim 20] A horseshoe according to any one of the previous claims wherein each said shock absorbing elastomeric material is a polyurethane.

[Claim 21] A horseshoe according to claim 20 wherein each said shock absorbing elastomeric material is a thermoplastic urethane bonded to said rigid material in an injection moulding process.

[Claim 22] A horseshoe according to claim 20 wherein said first layer and said second layer are made of the same elastomeric material.

[Claim 23] A horseshoe according to any one of the previous claims wherein the core is formed of an aluminium based alloy.

[Claim 24] A horseshoe according to any one of the previous claims wherein a hard insert is anchored into said layer of rigid material and protrudes into one of said first and second layers to provide a wear resistant strip.